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Senate

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God of courage, make us brave in facing the challenges of our time. Show us how to meet each difficulty with faith and wisdom. Make us faithful in the small things that matter in order to prepare us to face greater obstacles with trust in Your power.

Guide our lawmakers in their daunting work. May they live with such honor that they will be ready to be tested in life's storms. Infuse them with an ethical courage that will make them passionate about staying on the right path.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DEMINT). The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning following the opening remarks of the two leaders we will proceed to the consideration of a nomination to the Ninth Circuit Court. We have set aside up to 15 minutes for comments on that nomination prior to the rollcall vote. Therefore, I expect the vote to occur after 10 a.m., but it should not be too long after 10 a.m. this morning.

Following that vote, we will resume debate on the comprehensive immigration bill and the pending amendment proposed by Senator ISAKSON. This amendment was offered yesterday and had been pending from our earlier consideration of the immigration bill. It was my hope to lock in a vote to occur shortly after the judge vote of this morning, and we want to allow a few minutes for closing remarks and we want to accommodate a few minutes before that vote. I will be in discussion with the Democratic leader about that. There may be a Democratic alternative which I believe may have been just submitted. We will take a look at that and plan the vote on this accordingly. I do want to alert Members that we could expect a vote or two prior to our luncheons today.

As Senators return for the first vote of the week, they should be reminded—which I believe may have been just submitted. We will take a look at that and plan the vote on this accordingly. I do want to alert Members that we could expect a vote or two prior to our luncheons today.

We have this week and next week prior to the next recess to complete this bill. We have a supplemental bill, a pensions bill, and the Kavanaugh nomination—all which is a heavy load which I believe can be accomplished.

I will also add, the manager of the bill yesterday—both managers, I believe—stated we want these votes to be 20-minute votes, when we are actually voting and recognize that 20 minutes is a short period of time, but it is plenty of time if people know as soon as the bell goes off that they need to start coming here.

I have a statement—it will be brief—on immigration, but I turn to the

Democratic leader if he has anything in terms of scheduling?

Mr. REID. No.

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER SECURITY

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, last night the President of the United States addressed the Nation on the need to fix a broken immigration system, the focus of that speech last night being on securing the borders. The President was very clear on the fact that our borders have to be secure, we have to stop the hemorrhaging of people coming across-the-border for an immigration plan to really work. I applaud the President's leadership on this important issue, this pressing issue, especially because we are in the middle of this debate on the floor of the Senate. I support the proposal in terms of turning to the National Guard as a short-term, an interim, stopgap measure to secure our borders because anything we do does take time.

The President outlined the progress that has been made over the last 4 to 5 years on the border. Yet the problem gets worse and worse, in spite of the fact that we do have more people on the border. Our infrastructure is getting better, and we are building barriers. The fact is, as the President said last night, our borders are out of control, and we are failing the American people until we bring them back under control. Our border agents down there are stretched too far. They are over-stretched. Technology has not been fully applied to the degree that it should be. Each year we have millions of undocumented immigrants, illegal immigrants once they cross that border, who come across the southern border and indeed our other borders as well.

We catch more than we did in the past, but the numbers coming are increasing even faster than the numbers

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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